

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives always welcome the opportunity to recognize those Show-Me State residents who have developed and maintained outstanding reputations for their commitment and dedication to local communities and neighborhoods; and

Whereas, Dr. Gertrude Hooker Keith has attained distinction as a native of Kansas City, Missouri, whose early experiences with YWCA programs and facilities at the Paseo Branch provided her with a sound foundation on which to build her goals, standards, and practices in life; and

Whereas, a member of Paseo Baptist Church, Dr. Gertrude Keith has found true spiritual fulfillment through her music which has taken form through such varied pursuits as singing in choir, directing the Treble Clef Choir for forty years, studying with Madam Olga Sacerdote, and performing locally and nationally, including giving a concert in the impressive surroundings of the Nelson Atkins Museum as the first African American vocalist to do so; and

Whereas, after finishing college and marrying James Keith of the Jimmy Keith Orchestra, Dr. Gertrude Keith turned her attention to raising three children, Kenton, Gerren, and Stephanie, and to working full-time for the government of Kansas City; and

Whereas, in addition to her familial and employment responsibilities, Dr. Gertrude Keith committed herself to community involvement as the first black, female member of the School Board, manager of Wayne Minor Court, project coordinator for the Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority, site director for the construction of the Spirit of Freedom Fountain, founding member of the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center and Museum and president of its Board of Governors known as the Friends of Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center and Museum, Illustrious Commandress of the Daughters of Isis, and member of Eastern Star, Clio Art and Charity Club, and Book Lovers Club:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the stellar contributions and astute leadership so generously provided by Dr. Gertrude Keith to the residents and institutions of Kansas City and to convey to her this legislative body's heartiest congratulations and best wishes as she relocates her domicile to the state of Arizona; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Dr. Gertrude Hooker Keith, as an expression of our esteem for her and her lifelong endeavors.

Offered by _____
Representative Melba J. Curls, Dist. No. 41

Representative Yvonne S. Wilson, Dist. No. 40

Representative Craig Bland, Dist. No. 43

Representative Sharon Sanders Brooks, Dist. No. 37

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of

Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2148, adopted April 24, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker